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RUMANIAN HARVEST PROGRESS, AUGUST 1952

Summary: The following report contains data on Rumanian harvesting and crop collection as reported in August 1952 Bucharest newspapers. The information covers general data on the country as a whole and items on the following regiunes: Bucharest, Craiova, Pitesti, Ploesti, Galati, Timisoara, Barlad, Arad, Oradea, Cluj, Bacau, and Iasi.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.⁷Country As a Whole

On 5 August 1952, the Ministry of Agriculture announced in Viata Capitalei that grain harvesting was over in most of Rumania. The announcement stated that grain losses such as those incurred in 1951 because of late harvesting were being cut in 1952 because harvesting was on schedule, but losses in peas occurred in Craiova, Galati, and Constanta regiunes due to delay there. Bucharest, Craiova, Arad, and Timisoara regiunes were leaders in the grain harvest, the article continued, while Barlad, Iasi, Galati, Constanta, and Bacau regiunes were less successful. Harvesting was entirely completed on collectives and state farms in Turnu-Magurele Raion, Bucharest Regiune, and in Corabia and Calafat raions, Craiova Regiune. The reaping plan was fulfilled by individual regiunes as follows: under 20 percent by Hunedoara, Cluj, the Hungarian Autonomous Regiune, Stalin, Bacau, Suceava, Iasi, Barlad, and Galati; 25-50 percent in Baia-Mare, Oradea, Pitesti, Ploesti, and Constanta; more than 50 percent in Arad, Timisoara, Craiova, and Bucharest regiunes. (1)

On 13 August Viata Capitalei reported that harvesting was completed in Bucharest, Barlad, Constanta, Craiova, Cluj, and Ploesti regiunes. The other regiunes together had achieved 80 percent; however, Bacau was 60 percent complete, Mures only 46 percent. However, Constanta, Galati, Bucharest, Timisoara, Arad, and Oradea had not completed the pea harvest. The article warned that peas must be sprayed with carbon disulfide immediately after harvesting to prevent infestation with pea weevils. It stated that the following regiunes did

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not make maximum use of threshing and harvesting equipment: Stalin, Mures, Cluj, Suceava, and Bacau. In Vidra Raion, Bucharest Regiune, threshers turned out only 800-1,000 kilograms of wheat per day, and no machine operated at full efficiency, the newspaper declared.(2)

On 31 August Scanteia announced that the wool collection plan for 1952 had been fulfilled by 1 August. Leaders in wool production were Stalin, Oradea, Baia-Mare, Pitesti, Floesti, Arad, and Bucharest.(3)

The harvest situation in individual regiunes was reported by Scanteia and Viata Capitalei to be as follows:

Bucharest Regiune as a Whole

On 7 August Viata Capitalei listed the names of kulaks who attempted to sabotage threshing and harvesting in the regiune. They were Petre Ionica of Baneasa, Giurgiu Raion, who failed to prepare his thresher; Sima Lascu of Beiu, owner of 30 hectares, who failed to repair his tractor and thresher; Iorga Nicolae of Stefanesti, who failed to repair his tractor; Martin M. Chiriac of Putineiu, who failed to deliver his quota to the state; Paul I. Pituru of Putineiu, owner of 14.41 hectares and a tractor, who failed to deliver his quota to the state; Ion Linacef, former secretary of the people's council of Gostinu, who collaborated with kulaks; and Constantin Beianu of Cacaletti, who failed to repair his equipment.(4)

On 9 August Viata Capitalei listed leading threshing and harvesting raions as Draganesti, Rosiori-de-Vede, Turnu-Magurele, Alexandria, Zimnicea, and also Bucharest city. Average raions were listed as Vatroapele, Vida, Crevedia, Caciulati, Branesti, Lehliu, and Calarasi. Racari, Mihailesti, Vidre, Oltenita, and Slobozia raions were stated to be behind schedule. By 7 August threshing and harvesting were 76.77 percent completed in the regiune.(5) On 14 August, the same newspaper reported that 88.04 percent of the harvesting and threshing was completed in Bucharest Regiune. Zimnicea, Turnu-Magurele, Rosiori-de-Vede, Alexandria, and Draganesti had fulfilled plans 100 percent. Vidra, Slobozia, Racari, and others were behind schedule. However, deliveries of grain to the state were not satisfactory in all areas, the article continued; in Rosiori-de-Vede, Crevedia, and other reception centers organization was poor.(6)

On 15 August Viata Capitalei declared that seven raions had completed harvest and threshing plans. Zimnicea led with 102 percent; the others were Alexandria, Rosiori-de-Vede, Draganesti, Turnu-Magurele, Vatroapele, and Vida raions.(7) On 18 August the newspaper announced that the entire regiune had completed the harvest on 16 August. The first state farms to deliver state quotas were those in Piatra, Zimnicea Raion; Roseti, Calarasi Raion; Peris, Caciulati Raion; Scanteia and Draganesti, Oltenita Raion. The first collectives to deliver state quotas were those in Cazanesti, Slobozia Raion; Cortesti, Zimnicea Raion; Sodoru, Oltenita Raion; Lipia-Pojdani, Caciulati Raion, and Belitiori, Rosiori-de-Vede Raion. However, collections were not satisfactory in Vatroapele, Caciulati, Racari, Calarasi, and Crevedia raions; only 60 percent of the plan was fulfilled in these areas, the article stated.(8)

Viata Capitalei reported on 26 August that the entire Bucharest Regiune had completed its wheat collection plan. Zimnicea and Lehliu led with 105 percent fulfillment, followed by Vatroapele and Oltenita with 104 percent, Alexandria and Giurgi: with 103 percent, and Turnu-Magurele with 100 percent.(9)

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Reports on the harvest situation in individual raions of Bucharest Regiune were as follows:

Turnu-Magurele

According to Scanteia of 2 August, Turnu-Magurele fulfilled its collection plan 90 percent by 31 July. Average work per day per thresher in harvesting was 25,000-30,000 kilograms, as compared to 16,000 in previous years.(10)

Rosiorii-de-Vede

On 1 August Viata Capitalei complained that the grain reception center in Rosiorii-de-Vede had only one scale. Peasants were forced to wait as much as 24 hours to have their deliveries checked.(11) On 9 August the same newspaper described conditions which led to the raion's failure to maintain its grain collection schedule as follows: The collection center in Dobrotesti has received only 79.3 percent of planned deliveries by 4 August. The centers at Rosiorii-de-Vede received 36 percent, Malsaci 57.4 percent, Balaci, Mirosi, Moazceni, and other communes, less than planned. People's councils of communes failed to follow instructions for delivery. Collection centers were poorly organized.(5)

Viata Capitalei on 19 August reported that the Timpuri Noi state farm in Belitiori had produced 1,500 kilograms of wheat per hectare, as compared to 1,000 kilograms obtained by independent peasants. The state farm also produced 2,065 kilograms of barley per hectare and large quantities of oats.(12)

Alexandria Raion

In Draganesti Iulak Vadea Voicu withheld his quota.(1) Grain collection quotas were fulfilled in Comoara, Alexandria, Rasneni, and Magura. Asan Aga Commune delivered its entire quotas of wheat, barley, oats, and peas.(13)

Zimnicea Raion

Collection centers in Zimnicea Raion operated efficiently and delivered full quotas to the state, according to Viata Capitalei.(11) In Suhaila, kulak Mihai D. Craciun withheld quotas with the aid of two rich peasants.(4) In Zimnicele, Dumitru Secalus, secretary of the people's council, proved to be a hostile element.(4)

Racari Raion

In Stefanesti four threshers turned out up to 60,000 kilograms of grain daily.(6)

Giurgiu Raion

The reception center in Toporu wastes time in checking grain deliveries, Viata Capitalei reported on 1 August.(11) On 19 August the paper stated that the entire Giurgiu Raion had completed wheat harvesting 101.8 percent. The drive for collecting oats, barley, peas, and other crops continued.(12)

Oltenita Raion

The Budesti-Negoesti state farm fulfilled its fall quotas.(14) The 11 Junie collective in Valea Rosii grew 230 hectares of wheat, producing 1,500 kilograms more per hectare than individual peasants. The collective also grew onions and other vegetables.(14)

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CONFIDENTIALCaciulati Raion

The 8 Mai 1921 collective in Gruia achieved 3,008 kilograms of wheat per hectare and by 30 July completed 61 percent of its harvesting and threshing.(15) On 20 August the entire raion completed the harvest. Collection progressed well in general, according to Viata Capitalei, but individual communes failed to maintain schedules. These included Mora Saraca, which had fulfilled collections only 30 percent by 14 August, Fierbinti with 65 percent fulfillment, and Cocloc with 75 percent fulfillment. This situation was said to be due to the work of kulaks. Cases were also reported in which deliveries of grain were not shipped promptly from Peris and Fierbinti. For example, grain brought in by peasants between 26 and 28 July had not been cleared by 16 August.(16)

Crevedia Raion

In Crevedia Raion only 25 percent of the grain quota was threshed by 27 July, according to Viata Capitalei of 1 August.(11) The collection plan was fulfilled only 4 percent. There were too many cases in which grain was left exposed to rain or theft in the field, the paper stated. It warned that this grain must be brought to reception centers immediately.(11) The Elena Pavel collective of Roata fulfilled its harvest plan.(1)

Lehliu Raion

Vigilance on the part of people's councils in Lehliu Raion revealed hostile elements and kulaks, Viata Capitalei reported on 1 August. For example, kulak Paraitide Teodorescu of Frasinet withheld grain. In Pususanu, kulak Ilie Donciu withheld grain from 7 hectares. In Stefanesti kulak Safta C. Ghita kept all the grain which he had threshed.(11)

Bucharest City

Grivita Rosie Raion of the capital delivered its full grain quota to the state by 6 August.(15) By the use of electrical equipment 24 hours a day, an average of 18,000 kilograms of grain was threshed in 24 hours in Megasaia and Chitila.(15)

On 15 August, Viata Capitalei announced that the wheat plan for the capital had been fulfilled 102 percent. The following collectives were reported by the newspaper to be leaders in fulfillment: Timpuri Noi in Dudesti-Cioplea, Olga Bancin in Dragomiresti-Deal, Gheorghiu-Dej and 1 Mai in Stalin Raion. Grivita Rosie Raion fulfilled its grain harvest plan. Stalin Raion fulfilled its wheat plan 103 percent and its barley plan 102 percent. Gheorghiu-Dej Raion fulfilled its wheat plan 103 percent and its barley plan 114 percent. Tudor Vladimirescu Raion, however, remained behind with 95 percent for corn, 69 percent for barley, and 67 percent for oats.(7)

On 29 August, Viata Capitalei reported that Grivita Rosie Raion had fulfilled wheat quotas 106 percent, barley 103 percent, and oats 105 percent. Gheorghiu-Dej Raion fulfilled 103 percent of its wheat quota and 127 percent of its barley quota. Although 1 Mai Raion fulfilled its wheat plan 119 percent, the barley plan was fulfilled only 92 percent and the oats collection plan 35 percent as a result, the paper said, of the activities of kulaks. Kulaks were also active in Jilava, Nicolae Balcescu Raion and Dudesti, Tudor Vladimirescu raions, the article concluded.(14)

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CONFIDENTIALCraiova Regiune

In Caracal Raion, according to Scanteia, 32,106 hectares of the planned 38,038 were harvested by 30 July. The harvest was completed in Bucinisu, Deveselu, Farcasale, Studina, Vladila, Diosit, and Preajba, and by collectives in Cozieni, Facasale, and Stoenesti. The Caracal Raion wheat plan was completed 86.68 percent, and the barley plan 71.92 percent. Kulaks Nicolae Balaianu and Stefan Voiculescu were discovered to have withheld grain, the paper stated.(17)

Scanteia of 5 August reported that in Ghidici, Calafat Raion, the Poiana-Mare MTS was operating a thresher built by Vasile Roaita in Bucharest. This machine turned out 32,000 kilograms of wheat by 26 July.(18) A TOZ in Corcova, Strehaia Raion, obtained 30,934 kilograms of wheat on 16.53 hectares, or an average of 1,800 kilograms per hectare. The TOZ also grew barley, corn, beans, and sunflowers.(19)

At the beginning of August only Filiasi Raion had delivered its full wheat quota to the state, Scanteia of 29 August reported. Corabia, Caracal, Bailesti, Segaracea, Plenita, and Calafat raions were behind. Plenita, for example, delivered only 67.8 percent. Corabia, Bailesti, and Segaracea had also delivered approximately the same amount, the newspaper stated.(20)

Pitesti Regiune

On 6 August Scanteia reported the first delivery of grain in Pitesti Regiune.(21) In Dragasani Raion, Orlesti was the first commune to fulfill quotas.(22) On 26 August R. Valcea Raion was reported to be leading in quota delivery.(23) On 31 August Scanteia stated that the harvest plan was fulfilled in Pitesti and Campulung raions.(3)

Ploesti Regiune

On 16 August Scanteia announced that collectives in Alexeni and Malu, Urziceni Raion; Telega and Bordeiu, Campina Raion; Gura Niscovului and Joseni, Buzau Raion had completed the harvest. However, the collection program was not as well organized as harvesting, the paper reported. Transport and delivery of grains were said to be poor; many kulaks withheld quotas. In Bilciuresti, Camanesti, and Cornesti, Ploesti Raion, 10,000-15,000 kilograms of grain remained in fields. Because of poor control of grain deliveries, the paper reported, many grave deviations occurred. For example, Saitors /Inu/, director of the Ploesti Regiune grain collection center, hired hostile elements. In addition, chiefs of reception centers in Mihail and Buzau were former capitalists, the article stated.(24)

Collectives in Conduratu, Baba Ana, and Boldesti, Mizil Raion, averaged 2,000 kilograms of wheat per hectare, according to Scanteia of 7 August. The wheat averaged 82 kilograms per hectoliter, with 1.5 percent foreign matter. The Baba Ana reception center obtained 13,257 kilograms of wheat, 2,891 kilograms of barley, and 719 kilograms of oats from collectives.(25)

Galati Regiune

In Braila Raion, Movila-Miresci was the first commune to complete the harvest.(26) The Osmanu collective in Braila Raion delivered 2,000 kilograms of wheat, 1,700 kilograms of vegetables, and 300 kilograms of honey to the state.(27)

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Bujor Raion had a rich crop, according to Scanteia of 2 August, but harvesting was late and the raion was poorly organized for collection and reaping. By 30 July only 4 percent of the grain area had been reaped. Several collectives were successful, however, the paper stated. A collective in Tudor Vladimirescu reaped and threshed 28,000 kilograms of grain per day. Others in Rogojeni, Smulti, and Urlesti reaped up to 30,000 kilograms per day.(17)

In Macin Raion only 7 percent of the entire grain area had been harvested by 30 July and many errors occurred, according to Scanteia.(25)

In Tulcea Raion state and party organs failed to organize grain reception centers, the same paper declared on 16 August. It described the situation as follows: Records were not properly maintained. In Tulcea city the reception center did not send out receipts for 2 August deliveries until 11 August. The reception center in Chitila-Veche delayed from 31 July to 11 August. The center in Mahmudia lacked personnel to keep records and check deliveries. People's councils provided no receipt forms, and therefore payment to peasants in Bestepe and Sariasuf were late. On 7 August, 40-50 wagonloads were brought to the Tulcea station, where several of the platforms were so crowded that peasants were forced to wait all day, while other platforms were not in operation.(24)

On 27 August Scanteia described a typical collective in Grivita. The collective was established in 1950. It had 70 families with 14 oxen, 24 cows, 16 sheep, 60 hogs, 46 hens, and 100 beehives. The collective finished its grain harvest by 27 August.(28)

Timisoara Regiune

On 7 August Scanteia reported that the Panduri state farm in Pietroiu, Fetesti Raion, had finished harvesting 900 hectares of wheat, 400 of barley, and 250 of oats by 2 August.(25) On 29 August Scanteia stated that collectives in Moldova-Noua Raion had completed deliveries of grain quotas to the state. Among the leaders were the Dunarea collective in Belobresca, the Viata Noua collective in Pjejena, and the 6 Martie collective in Divici.(20)

Barlad Regiune

Scanteia of 3 August reported that a TOZ in Suvurov, Focsani Raion, produced 1,083 kilograms of wheat per hectare on its 62 hectares.(29) The Pavel Tacenco collective in Draguseni, Barlad Raion completed harvesting of 132 hectares of wheat on 29 July. It delivered 11,000 kilograms to the state, Scanteia reported on 6 August.(21) On 17 August the paper listed leaders in delivery of quotas to the state as the N. Balcescu collective, Fruntiseni; Pavel Tacenco collective, Draguseni; Gheorghe-Doja collective, Popeni; TOZ in Ciocani and Negrilesti; and independent peasants in Popeni, Canesti, Ivesti, and Galbeni.(22) An article appearing in Scanteia on 22 August stated that the Octombrie Rosu collective in Paduren, Panciu Raion, produced 700 kilograms per hectare of wheat more than independent peasants. The Calea spre Socialism collective in Munteni, Tecuci Raion, produced an average of 1,816 kilograms of wheat per hectare.(20)

Arad Regiune

On 17 August, Scanteia reported that Ineu Raion had delivered its full quota to the state.(22) On 28 August the newspaper stated that Gurahonts Raion had fulfilled grain collection quotas. The Soarele collective obtained 1,700 kilograms of grain per hectare.(30)

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In the entire Oradea Regiune the collection plan was fulfilled 90.4 percent for wheat and 84.5 percent for rye by 28 August, Scanteia reported on 30 August. Simleul-Silvanei Raion led with 100 percent delivery of wheat, and significant percentages achieved in barley, rye, and oats.(31)

Cluj Regiune

According to Scanteia of 2 August, threshing had not yet begun in some sections of Huedin Raion. Serious errors had occurred in the organization of harvesting and in the distribution of threshers, the paper reported. Electrical equipment was not installed until 30 July. Many kulaks were active and transportation was poor.(17) In Jibou Raion favorable conditions permitted reaping to begin on 8 July, according to Scanteia of 12 August. Collectives leading in delivery of state quotas included those in Romanasi, Somes-Odorheiu, Somes-Curaslau, and Napradea. However, Scanteia stated that the records of the 91 threshers in the raion were poor. Twenty-four of the threshers were not repaired in time or broke down. Taking advantage of the lack of vigilance, the paper continued, kulaks Imre Talos of Creaca, Nicolae Fehir of Brusturi, Cosma Dumitry of Dragu, Ion Campean of Sampetrol, and other neglected to maintain equipment in good operating condition.(32)

In Ludus Raion, the harvest ended by 25 August, Scanteia reported on 29 August, but the collection plan was less than half fulfilled. One of the principal reasons which led to the delays in collections was said to be the failure of the raion organizations in charge. In Ludus Raion, the newspaper continued, peasants had to fight against the hostile acts of kulaks who tried to sabotage the collection plan. No thorough measures were taken for the proper organization of fields nor for the procurement of capable personnel, it stated. In Grindeni Commune, for example, there was no threshing delegate, and the transport of grain was poorly organized. Grain was not sent to reception centers immediately. Thus, kulaks were able to withhold grain, or to exchange cereals of good quality for those of poor quality. This made the maintenance of accurate records impossible, according to the paper. For example, in Bogata a wagon-load of grain remained in the fields. Bichis Commune sent a convoy to the reception center without a threshing delegate to supervise. This permitted the exchange of the grain for other grain infected with weevils. Furthermore, Scanteia pointed out, in some communes of the raion no accurate records of quotas collected and sent to the reception center were maintained. In Petrila, grain collected was not sent to the reception center because there was no record of which peasants had delivered this grain. Aurel Cernei, chief of the reception center in Jernut Commune, weighed by eye, rather than by scale. This resulted in errors. For example, grain brought from Seulai-de-Mures was later found to contain 30 percent foreign matter and to weigh only 73 kilograms per hectoliter.(20)

Bacau Regiune

According to Scanteia of 5 August, the first deliveries of wheat in Targu-Neamt Raion were made by a collective in Pastraveni and by Bacau, Targu-Neamt, Bacau, Racaciuni, Gheorghe-Doja, Racatua, and other raions.(18)

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CONFIDENTIALIasi Regiune

In Vaslui Raion, the first grain quota was delivered to the Plopana reception center, Scanteia reported on 10 August. This was a shipment of 6,440 kilograms of wheat by a collective with 97 hectares. In Iasi Raion, Tufesti was the first to deliver quotas.(26) The Ilie Pintilie collective in Balati was the first to finish harvesting in Targu-Frumos Raion. The collective produced 128,000 kilograms of wheat on 78 hectares, for an average of 1,641 kilograms per hectare.(33)

SOURCES

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4. Viata Capitalei, 7 Aug 52
5. Ibid., 9 Aug 52
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12. Ibid., 19 Aug 52
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14. Ibid., 29 Aug 52
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20. Ibid., 29 Aug 52
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25. Ibid., 7 Aug 52
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27. Ibid., 15 Aug 52
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